

# THE OCTAGON

Newsletter of the M.G. Owners Club & the Peninsula T Register  
The Northern California Centre of the M.G. Car Club



Photo by Jeremy Palgon

MGs at the Sunol Water Temple

## April 2009

# About *The Octagon* and MGOC...

The M.G. Owners Club, formed in 1957, is the Northern California Centre of the M.G. Car Club, formed in England in 1930. The Peninsula T Register was formed in 1973 and is now an informal sub-group of the MGOC. We receive a copy of the MGCC's *Safety Fast*, available to members on loan from the corresponding secretary. The Club is also associated with the North American MGB Register, the North American MGA Register, and the New England MG T Register. The MGOC holds a business meeting on the second Thursday of each month at an event known as the "Natter and Noggin" in the style of English clubs. *The Octagon*, our newsletter, is published monthly by the M.G. Owners Club. Opinions expressed in *The Octagon* are not necessarily those of the MGOC, its members, or Board of Directors.

## DIRECTORY OF MGOC OFFICERS FOR 2008

**President:** Sam Gearhart, 510-530-2267, [swg3@comcast.net](mailto:swg3@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)

**Treasurer:** David Sarasua, 408-227-3749, [dsarasua@pacbell.net](mailto:dsarasua@pacbell.net)

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**Photographer:** Jeremy Palgon, 510-378-1821, [alistaircookie@gmail.com](mailto:alistaircookie@gmail.com)

## CLUB ADVISOR PROGRAM

Feel free to call these members, who have volunteered to help with purchase, repair, and restoration of various MG models.

**MGB 1962-74:** Marty Ray, 831-475-6204, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

**MGB 1974-1980:** Ed Adams, 510-483-6821

**MGB V8 Conversion:** Tony Bates, 408-666-6174, [Tony@BatesFamily.net](mailto:Tony@BatesFamily.net)

**MGC:** Kent Leech, 925-253-9757, [kent@kentleech.com](mailto:kent@kentleech.com)

**MG Midget:** Mark Hertz, 925-757-2070, [damhertz@prodigy.net](mailto:damhertz@prodigy.net)

**MGA/Coupe/Twin Cam 1955-62:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

**Z-Magnette Saloon:** Eric Baker, 510-531-7032, [mgpb36@yahoo.com](mailto:mgpb36@yahoo.com)

**T-types:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)

**Pre-war Midgets-Magnas-Magnettes:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

**PA/PB Midget 1934-36:** Eric Baker, 510-531-7032, [mgpb36@yahoo.com](mailto:mgpb36@yahoo.com)

**S.U. Carburetters:** Marty Ray, 831-475-6204, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

## COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IN *THE OCTAGON*

Direct all questions about advertising to Mike Jacobsen at 415-333-9699 or [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com). 2008 rates are: monthly (yearly): full page \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75). All ads expire on January 1, and fees for a partial year will be pro-rated to that date. Deadline for ad materials is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. The MGOC makes no claims as to the reputation or quality of work performed by businesses advertising in *The Octagon*.

## MGOC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Information on the MGOC finances is available upon request from the treasurer.

## MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO *THE OCTAGON*

Your stories, photos, tips, questions, and anything MGOC-related are always welcome in *The Octagon*. Please make your contributions by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. Please email all contributions to [mgowners@gmail.com](mailto:mgowners@gmail.com) or send them to: MGOC, 7230 Silver Lode Lane, San Jose, CA 95120.

## RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR THE MGOC

Have you helped recruit any new members lately? Bob Stine is in charge of new member recruitment and can send you flyers. The Club roster is available to members from Mike Jacobsen upon request.

## MGOC.ORG

Upcoming events, MGOC history, photos, membership forms, *The Octagon*, and helpful links are posted on the Club Web site at <http://mgoc.org>.

# Forthcoming Events

### MGOC Events in bold

- Apr. 3-5 – **CSRG Vintage Races**, Infineon Raceway, Sears Point
- Apr. 4-5 – **SCCA Vintage Spring Classic Races**, Mazda Raceway, Laguna Seca
- Apr. 5 – **April Fool's Rallye**, Santa Rosa, **Empire Sports Car Association**
- Apr. 19 – **Mt. Hamilton Tour with Abingdon Rough Riders**, San Jose
- Apr. 25 – **Cheese to Wine to Wings Run**, Sonoma, Wayne Veatch
- Apr. 26 – **Pacific Coast Dream Machines**, Half Moon Bay
- May 2-3 – **VARA British Extravaganza**, Buttonwillow
- May 9 – **MGs by the Bay**, Danville Livery
- May 17 – **All British Meet at Woodland** (formerly Dixon), **UBSCC**
- May 17 – **Friendship Day**, Redwood City, **Mid-Peninsula Old Time Auto**
- May 30 - Jun. 7 – **British Car Week**
- Jun. 22-26 – **GoF West**, Squaw Valley
- Jun. 24-28 – **MG2009**, Breckenridge, Colorado

# From the Editor...

Last month I began with, “Rare is the MG owner who does not have a tale of woe.” This month I offer some personal anecdotal evidence in support of that opening. My MGB was supposed to be the recipient of a new water pump and heater valve at the March Tech Session. Unfortunately my car was unable to make it there.

I prepped my car for the short trip down to On the Road Again the day before the event. I topped up the fluids, started it up, and went for a short drive. All went well – or at least as well as such a drive can go when your car has an undiagnosed running problem and is dripping water.

Later that same day, I tried to drive the car again and it refused to get into gear. There was no noise – no clunk, no bang, no grinding. It just wouldn’t go into gear. The hydraulics are fine, so the problem is either the gearbox or the clutch. Whichever it is, there was no way I was going to be able to drive it to the Tech Session.

Somewhat disappointed, I went down to the Tech Session with my friend, Bob. Unfortunately, one member drove all the way down to Morgan Hill from Marin to see the water pump and heater valve replacement. I’m sure both he and I wish my car would have made it.

This mishap aside, the Tech Session went well. Marty Ray realigned the exhaust and changed out the gearbox oil on his MGB GT, while Bob worked on his generator. Afterward, Joel and Betty Johnson, Warren Pierce, Bob, and I went out for pizza.

In other news, George Steneberg, Craig Kuezing, and I recently gathered at Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park to shoot the photo for the MGs by the Bay poster. George brought his J2 and Craig brought his Midget. The concept of the shot is: Midgets, old and new, set against the East Bay hills. While a complete poster is still in the works, an MGs by the Bay flyer featuring that scene appears on page 12. (Please register for MGs by the Bay using the form opposite the flyer.)

After I was satisfied that I got the shot, we drove down the road to the Sunol Water Temple (cover photo). The green MGB belongs to Craig’s son, David. The Water Temple is worth visiting, if you ever get the chance. An attractive work of public art, the recently restored Water Temple is built at the confluence of three water sources that were brought together to provide water for San Francisco. Though it appears to be a public structure, there is widespread speculation that the Water Temple was built for the benefit of a businessman. Rumor has it that the owner of the Spring Valley Water Company thought that erecting the Water Temple would make it easier to sell his company to the City of San Francisco. Though, were this true, the effect of the Water Temple is debatable – San Francisco bought the water company in 1930, some 20 years after the Temple was erected.

Whatever the story with the Water Temple, there is a confluence within the MGOC – things are coming together for MGs by the Bay. Spring is here, our new location at The Danville Livery is set, and many members are working hard to make it a wonderful show. All that remains is you. So get your MG up and running, register for MGs by the Bay, and get set for a great driving season.

Jeremy Palgon

# President's Ponderings...

Hello to you all; and to each, a big, hearty welcome to spring! I'm hopeful that we're nearly done with the rainy season, although I heard on the news this morning that it might rain a bit next week. Either way, the weather has definitely warmed up, and flowers are starting to bloom. That means it must be time to prepare our cars and pull out our driving hats and sunglasses.

I was out running errands the other day and the profusion of Easter eggs for sale at the drugstore reminded me, for some odd reason, of a bunch of MGs lined up at a car show. I think it must have been the fact that both Easter eggs (and those little marshmallow bunnies and chicks) and many of our MGs share some rounded shapes and are often painted in bright colors. Whatever the reason, I was reminded again that our driving season is soon approaching. Our daring young men (folks) in their jaunty jalopies will soon take to the road, and passers-by will see a long line of classic British cars driving to or from interesting places. I always think that those who see us drive by along our routes must wonder enviously where our group is going and wish they were driving with us.

The focus event of our season, MGs by the Bay, is fast approaching. In fact, by the time you read these ponderings, MGs by the Bay will be only a few weeks away. You can learn more about the show, and register for it using the form, here in this edition of *The Octagon*. I'm looking forward to our new venue under the trees in Danville, and hope that I will meet a great number of you there. In the meantime, let's all welcome spring, and be sure our cars are ready to go!

Regards,  
Sam Gearhart

## MG

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# Mt. Hamilton Tour

## Sunday, April 19

Ready for a challenging drive up Mt. Hamilton to the Lick Observatory and back? Then come along as we once again meet up with the Abingdon Rough Riders for our annual trip over the tallest mountain in the area.

The drive is challenging, as there are a little over twenty miles of steep hills with some of the coolest (i.e. narrow and winding) roads in the Bay Area. The views from the road and the observatory are breathtaking.

This is not a trip for the faint hearted (or those prone to car sickness), and your car should be in good mechanical condition, as there are no services for over 70 miles. Please start with a full tank of petrol.

Following the same route as last year, our ARR leaders plan to start on the backside and end up in San Jose (between 3-4 pm). We'll be stopping at The Junction for lunch, and we'll probably also stop at a winery in Livermore and the Mt. Hamilton Observatory.

**When and Where:** We'll meet at 9:30 am at [Starbucks, 3950 Mowry Ave.](#), Fremont Plaza (corner of Fremont Blvd. and Mowry), in Fremont. Do **NOT** go to the Starbucks at 5034 Mowry Ave. (between Blacow and Farwell)!

**ARR Contacts:** Barry and Sue Swackhamer, 408-608-5695, [barry\\_sue90@hotmail.com](mailto:barry_sue90@hotmail.com).

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# ESCA April Fools Rallye

## Sunday, April 5

### Santa Rosa

The Empire Sports Car Association would like to cordially invite you to their 45<sup>th</sup> annual April Fool's Rallye. Rallymaster Bob "The Beard" Jenkins has devised a scenic and fun 35 mile route for this A-B type rallye.

A rallye is not a speed event. It's a test of a team's ability to follow instructions along the route while looking for signs and situations that fit the definitions of the rallye. There will be a brief rallye school at 11 am for all those new to rallying.

**When and Where:** 10:30 am in the [Charles Shultz Museum](#) parking lot, Santa Rosa.

**Cost:** \$15 per car. All proceeds go to charity.

**Directions:** Take the Steele Lane Exit off Highway 101, a mile north of downtown Santa Rosa. Go west on Steele and it will become Guerneville. Right on Range. Left on W. Steele. Right at Hardies, and left into the second driveway (museum lot).

**Contact:** Bob Jenkins at 707-546-6867 or [thebeard@sonic.net](mailto:thebeard@sonic.net).



# The Cheese to Wine to Wings Run

## Saturday, April 25

### Sonoma



Wayne and Janet Veatch invite the MG Owners Club and the Sorry Safari Touring Society to join them for a tour from the [Sonoma Cheese Factory](#) (at the north side of Sonoma Plaza) to [Jonesy's Famous Steak House](#) at the Napa Airport, by way of a twisty, scenic route and the [Gustavo Thrace](#) wine tasting room in historic downtown Napa.



We will meet at the Cheese Factory around 9:30 am for no-host coffee and tea then depart at 10:00 am, in a westerly thence northerly direction, to downtown Napa. After tasting, we'll take a different, "southern", roundabout route to the Napa Airport. There will be no charge for the tasting, but don't get too carried away! For those not into wine tasting or having an interest in exploring, the tasting room is across the street from the new [Oxbow Public Market](#). There is a large adjacent lot for all of us to park together.

Bring a fun car and expect fine weather! If you fear rain or cold weather, bring one with a top, wipers, and heater. Enjoy the day with Wayne and Janet, their MGB, your good friends, and their fine cars.

We must give the tasting room and Jonesy's an estimate of the number of people coming, so please let us know if you are coming by April 20.

**Where and When:** Meet at the Sonoma Cheese Factory (located at [2 E Spain St., Sonoma](#)) at 9:30 am.

**RSVP** to Wayne Veatch at 415-821-1806 or [veatchlaw@gmail.com](mailto:veatchlaw@gmail.com).

**Contact on the day of the event:** Wayne's cell phone, 415-297-1807.

# Pacific Coast Dream Machines

## Half Moon Bay's Awe-inspiring World of Wonder

Rare Autos, Military Aviation Marvels, Monster Trucks, Motorcycle Trials

### Sunday, April 26

A spectacular showcase of 2,000 magnificent machines: running the gamut from super cool cars, custom motorcycles, and one-of-a-kind woodie busses to tricked-out trucks, antique engines and tractors, and historic military aircraft.

Beyond the wide assortment of cars (everything from horseless carriages to a NASCAR show car), hundreds of aviation wonders are expected to be on display. Birds of every feather, from stylish home-builts and ultralights to spectacular military aircraft (including a B-17, a Japanese "Zero" fighter, a B-25 Bomber, P-51 Mustangs, and an F-4 Wildcat) will be on site for your amazement. There will also be a fascinating array of antique engine powered tools and tractors. And for your musical enjoyment, Americana legend Bill Kirchen will be playing.

**When and Where:** 10 am to 4 pm at the Half Moon Bay Airport on Highway 1, about twenty miles south of San Francisco and five miles north of Highway 92.

**Cost:** \$30 per machine (with pre-registration before April 15, \$35 thereafter). Spectators: \$20 for adults, \$10 for age 11-17 and 65+, and free for kids age 10 and under. Tickets are available at the gate only. The show benefits the [Coastside Adult Day Health Center](#).

**More information:**

<http://www.miramarevents.com/dreammachines/>

# VARA British Extravaganza

## Vintage Race and Car Show

Buttonwillow Raceway Park

### Saturday and Sunday, May 2-3

Touted as the premier British car event on the West Coast, the Extravaganza features a popular choice British car show (with lots of prizes and trophies), a track drive on both days, a slalom event (with instruction), a BBQ on Saturday night, a pre-war exhibition tour in period correct clothes, British feature races, and two days of racing with over 250 cars.

**Where:** [Buttonwillow](#) race track is located a quarter mile west of I-5 on Lerdo Highway, near Bakersfield.

**Cost:** \$35 per person (with pre-registration before April 20, \$45 thereafter).

**More information and registration form at** [VARARacing.com](http://VARARacing.com).





Big Ben is ringing in the news: We're celebrating our 20th year honoring Britain's automotive history! The Yolo County Fairgrounds in Woodland, California is the place to be on May 17 for the Annual All British Motorcar Show and Swap Meet!

Polish your wing, dust off your bonnet, check out your boot, clean your windscreen, fill up with petrol and come eat a pastie because more than 300 daily drivers and trailer queens are expected to show on our huge grassy field. Not only do we offer the largest all British car show, but in our swap meet you'll find all sorts of new and used parts to help you get your British car fix. Don't be left out – come see and show your favorite roadster, estate, saloon or lorry!

**Cost:** \$20 per car (with pre-registration before May 1, \$30 at the gate), free for spectators.

**Directions from the Bay Area:** Take I-80 East toward Sacramento and go north on CA-113 toward Woodland. Take exit 36 for Gibson Road. Keep left at the fork, and follow signs for Gibson Rd. Turn left at Gibson Rd. and watch for the gate on the right to enter the fairgrounds.

**More information and registration form at [UBSCC.org](http://UBSCC.org).**



The MG Car Club Rocky Mountain Centre is thrilled and pleased to be hosting the North American MGB Register's annual meet, MG2009, in the Kingdom of Breckenridge.

Imagine mild summer days, cool summer nights, crystal clear blue skies, and twisty roads through mountains and valleys with unbeatable scenery and views that go on forever. Now imagine sharing all of this with more than 400 friends driving MGs. This dream will come true at MG2009.

**More information and registration form at [MG2009.com](http://MG2009.com).**



## June 22-26

GoF West is the name of a regularly held "Gathering of the Faithful" MG owners in the Western United States. This year, GoF West will be at beautiful Squaw Valley. It's a special place, difficult to experience without falling under its spell. It is as if, by its very nature, the valley commands a relationship with those who set foot there. We are looking forward to an event filled with spectacular scenery, great food, and wonderful friends like you. See you there!

**More information and registration form at [GoFWest.com](http://GoFWest.com).**

# St. Patrick's Day Tour

## To The Pelican Inn at Muir Beach

By David Wright

On the appropriate day, six MGOC members and four MGs assembled at the commuter parking lot east of Highway 101 on Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael. We were advised to wear something green. It must have worked as nobody, as far as I know, got pinched! In fact, for additional insurance two of the touring cars were green.

Leading the tour was Steve Lilves in his slate grey, red soft-topped MGB roadster. I rode with George Steneberg in his recently restored green TD, with the top down. The other top-down car was Wayne Veatch's green MGB. In GT comfort were Joel and Betty Johnson in their yellow MGB.

Under cloudy skies we headed out north-west on Lucas Valley Road into the beautiful Marin County scenery, all dressed up in its new green spring colors. We drove on to Nicasio and took a right turn onto Point Reyes Petaluma Road. Hicks Valley Road lead us to Wilson Hill Road, and then north again on Chileno Valley Road for a photo op stop to, well, photograph the beautiful Chileno Valley.

By now the sun had come out and was much enjoyed by the top down cars. The waters of Tomales Bay sparkled as we headed south on Shoreline Highway 1. Onward south to the Bolinas Lagoon, Muir Beach, and the beautiful Pelican Inn.

This transplanted West of England pub was indeed a welcome sight and provided the MG travelers with a lovely lunch and an enjoyable pint. A great ending to a fine tour. Thank you, Steve, for putting it on.



Green members behind a green MGB

Photo courtesy of Steve Lilves





*The MG Owners Club presents the 16th Annual*

# **MGs by the Bay**

*Saturday, May 9, 2009*

*The Danville Livery*



# The MG Owners Club

presents

## MGs by the Bay

Saturday, May 9, 2009

### The Danville Livery



This annual event is a gathering of MGs from across Northern California.

The show opens at 10 am, rain or shine, with trophies awarded at 2 pm.

Same-day registration will open at 8 am.

**New location in Danville, under the trees at The Livery shopping center!**

400 Sycamore Valley Road, Danville, 94526 – One block west off I-680

**Featuring:** Music, raffle prizes, contests, trophies, food and drink, plus more!

**Awards:** Judging is by popular vote, with trophies awarded for People's Choice, Best Daily Driver, Premier (from previous winners), and for every class, with classes determined according to the number of cars registered by May 1, 2009.

**Entries:** All MGs are welcome, from daily drivers to complete restorations. The \$25 entry fee includes a dash plaque, an event t-shirt, and special coupons from our sponsors. Additional cars registered to the same owner are \$10 each, which includes a dash plaque only. All cars must arrive by 10 am sharp! This is necessary to allow for proper placement of the cars. If you arrive late, we **cannot** guarantee placement of your car with others in its class.

Return the registration form below with the entry fee. Photocopies of this form are acceptable. One form is required for each MG.

Mail before May 1, 2009 to:

MGs by the Bay  
320 B Monterey Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA 94131

For information call  
415-333-9699 or 925-899-1218  
or visit [www.MGOC.org](http://www.MGOC.org)

Make checks payable to **MGOC**

Show Use Only		
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Please Print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Short description of car: \_\_\_\_\_

MG model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Body style: Coupe Roadster

Saloon Race car

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Car color: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: M L XL XXL

Has this car ever won First in Class at MGs by the Bay? Yes No

Release: Neither I nor my heirs will hold the MG Owners Club or the City of San Leandro liable for any loss, damage, or injury done to me, or my party, while engaged in this event or traveling to and from this event.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# How We Got Involved with British Automobiles

By 'Del' and Martha Dell'Aquila

When our second son, Emile, was in his late teens, he acquired a '66 TR4A. He proceeded to take it apart and do a complete driveway mechanical rebuild. It was a good learning experience which pointed him to, many restorations later, establishing his own British automobile repair and restoration facility.

His highly regarded shop, Emile's Sports Car Performance in Santa Cruz, has been in operation for over 25 years and is well known among British sports car owners. Over the years his cars have won a number of significant awards. He never parted with that 'starter' 1966 TR4A. A recent mechanical update and cosmetic freshening up of that same auto won Emile a class award at last year's British Car Meet in Morgan Hill.

Sometime in the mid-seventies, Emile drove over to visit us in his recently completed project – a '69 MGC Roadster. He had it repainted light yellow (primrose?), and it looked great (see photo taken 20 years later in 1993). Its 3-liter, 6-cylinder engine churned out 150 horsepower and provided oodles of torque (even in overdrive); and it was a great road car. To make a long story short, we informed Emile we wanted to buy the MGC – and that was the beginning of our involvement with British automobiles!



But wait, there's more! A year or two later we purchased a 1968 MGB GT that caught my wife's fancy (she liked the metallic maroon color). After Emile completed an engine rebuild and overhaul, it became her daily driver for many years.

At the time I was working for a living and did a lot of international traveling. Those were the days when air travel was actually a pleasant experience, and I made many trips to Europe (especially England) to drum up business, support our overseas representatives, and visit many high tech electronics firms. Our customers in the UK were located throughout England; so I got to visit all parts of the country. I fell in love with the lovely countryside, people, and picturesque



villages with their thatched roofed homes. I quite often felt as if I had been transported back to the Twenties. Visiting the small village pubs with their wonderful character and warm atmosphere (and enjoying a few pints of bitter) will always be a memorable experience for me.

As we were then owners of two British cars, I knew it would be fun to seek out and get to know the major MG parts suppliers in England (during my off time and on weekends in the UK). At the time I had no information at all; so I consulted the telephone yellow pages for the names and locations (remember, this was before Google). I ultimately met and developed friendly relationships with the owners and staff of Moto-Build Ltd. in Hounslow, Brown & Gammons Ltd. in Hertfordshire, and MG Centre Ltd. in Swavesey, Cambridgeshire, among others. Incidentally, I don't think it was known at the time, but the latter supplier was owned by the M.G. Owners Club (also of Swavesey). I became a member of the club, and always visited their retail shop whenever I was in England. The lovely town of Cambridge with its ancient and famous university, which I highly recommend exploring whenever the reader is visiting England, is located just a few miles away.

I became very familiar with the beautiful English countryside during my exploring drives; and I admired the great looking, period classic sports cars tooling around over the quaint back roads. So it was in England that I developed the desire to someday own a T-Series MG.

Back in America, I eventually wound up purchasing a '51 TD that a friend once drove but later parked away in the garage (and then forgot about). About fifteen years later, he called me to ask if I was still interested in buying his TD. By then it needed major surgery (see photo below). However, the wood was solid with no rot, and the body was complete and intact (with no rust, damage, or fillers). We closed the deal and trailered the car back to our garage in Saratoga the same day.



Over the next two years we completely disassembled the TD down to its frame and did a complete rebuild on everything. We completed the restoration and had it back on the road in 1990. The experience, knowledge, and fulfillment

we gained were immense. Those many evening and weekend hours spent working on the project, seeking suppliers, and chasing parts were pleasant.

All parts purchases were made direct via the various suppliers I knew in England (at a time when the dollar was worth a lot more than today). I personally hand carried many parts directly onto my flights – both outwards and returning back to the USA – with no problem at all. I once hand carried the 59-pound TD gear box for a rebuild by Brown & Gammons; and another time the complete steering rack and pinion assembly for my MGC. That was typical of the relaxing casualness of air travel in those long gone days.

Our TD (like our long owned, but since departed '68 MGB GT and '69 MGC roadster) is a daily driver. If you are in and around the Morgan Hill area and notice a red 1951 MG TD cruising around our scenic backroads, through downtown, or at a shopping center parking lot; that's us. Please do stop us, and let's chat!

Finally, by sheer coincidence last year, the plumber replacing our hot water heater noticed our TD up on its hydraulic storage rack. He asked if I knew of this fellow Bill Hiland who had recently opened a British auto restoration shop right here in Morgan Hill. And as they say, the rest is history.

Shortly thereafter I visited Bill and took a tour of his facility. I felt as if I had died and gone to MG heaven. Until then we thought we were the only actual users of drivable MGs in our area, and so had no contact with local clubs or other British car owners. I liked what I saw of Bill and the great job he is doing at his On The Road Again facility. We joined last year's MGOC Wine Tour and BBQ that Bill was promoting, met a lot of other friendly British car enthusiasts, had loads of fun on the tour, and joined the MG Owners Club soon after. So here we are; and how nice it is to be here!



Del with his TD at On the Road Again

Photo by Jeremy Palgon

# MGOC Business Meeting Minutes

## March 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Sam Gearhart at 7:03 pm. Also attending were Eric Baker, Randy Grossman, Mike Jacobsen, Craig and Kim Kuenzinger, Marty Ray, David Sarasua, Bob Stine, Bob Trencheny, and David Wright. Greg Scott, a friend of Mike Jacobsen's also attended.

The February minutes were approved as printed in *The Octagon*.

### Reports

Treasurer's Report: One bill for name badges was paid in the past month. The Treasurer will provide the Club account balance at the meeting or send a monthly statement if he is not present.

Registrar's Report: Nothing to Report.

Secretary's Report: In Ken Smith's recent column in the MGB Driver he asked for information on the previous owners of a car that was once located in the Bay Area. The car is now in The Netherlands. Mike Jacobsen and George Steneberg had no records of the previous owners so the MGOC has no information to send to Ken. The Secretary will contact Ken Smith by email and let him know we have no information.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Nothing to Report.

Regalia: Last month we sold a banner and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary pin to a member. Payment passed to Treasurer David Sarasua at the meeting.

The Octagon: Nothing to Report.

Web Site: Once the NAMGARWest09 site is operational a link will be placed on the MGOC web site to help members find the event site.

### Upcoming Club Events

On the Road Again Tech Session: is planned for Saturday, March 14. This was to be a dry run for the NAMGARWest09 tech session but some expected participants were unavailable. Marty Ray will be at On the Road Again to help people work on their cars.

St Patrick's Day Ride: Tuesday, March 17. Steve Lilves is leading this North Bay drive. We believe this is the Club's first mid-week event.

Mt Hamilton Tour: This is a joint event with the Abingdon Rough Riders on Sunday, April 19.

Cheese to Wine to Wings Run: Wayne Veatch is leading a tour through Sonoma and Napa Valley on April 25.

### Old Business

Treasurer Recommendations: There was extensive discussion about four proposals from the new Treasurer.

1. Approval of Disbursements – The Treasurer proposed that the board review and approve disbursements and the treasurer writes checks. It was agreed the treasurer will email the board before writing any checks. If no board member disapproves, then the treasurer will pay

the bill. If the check is disapproved, then the matter will be discussed at the next monthly meeting.

2. **Custody of Savings Account** – The Treasurer proposed that he should only have access to the checking account. The President, Vice President, and Secretary will be added to the checking and savings accounts for signature authority. The board members will plan to get to Wells Fargo to be added to the account. The Treasurer will investigate the details of changes. The final decision has been tabled until next meeting.
3. **Quickbooks** – The Treasurer recommended that the Club keep a back up copy of our financial records. It was agreed that the treasurer will email a copy of the Club's finances to Sam Gearhart monthly.
4. **Quarterly/Annual Statements** – The Treasurer recommended the board officially close the books that were completed under the old treasurer by signing off on the financial records from January 2008 to February 2009. Disbursement records to be reviewed and signed. The board agreed this would be completed by next meeting.

**MGs by the Bay:** We are waiting for the insurance certificate to provide to the Danville Livery. Mike Jacobsen is working the issue. The Paddock, a store at the Livery, is helping to put on the show. They will have MG logo items for sale, and may provide awards and door prizes. Television station KTVU is going to do a one minute "drop spot" TV commercial to advertise the show. Craig Kuenzinger will contact other local channels and newspapers to advertise show. Craig will also get a press release done. We will also solicit sponsors for posters as we have done in previous years. Awards will be handled by Sam Gearhart and Bob Stine. Jeremy Palgon will run the MGs by the Bay registration form in *The Octagon* in April. Mike Jacobsen will send notices to past non-MGOC attendees of MGs by the Bay. Details of room rates at nearby hotels will be posted on the MGOC web site.

**NAMGBR2009:** Several MGOC members are planning to attend.

**NAMGAR West 2009:** There was a short discussion on handling finances for the event. We need to determine how to handle credit cards by April 2009.

**GIS Project:** Bob Trencheny asked for a copy of the zip code, car type, and member type (primary, associate, corresponding) from the registrar to complete a project for a college class in Geographic Information Systems. Only zip codes will be used so no identifying member information is used. Bob will also provide the MGOC a copy of the project with more detailed information so the Club can use the information to identify the location of its members. The board agreed to provide Bob with the limited member information.

**Next Meeting and Natter:** 7 pm on Thursday, April 9 at The Englander in San Leandro.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Submitted by Bob Trencheny.

# Classified Ads

Ads are free to MGOC members and \$6.00 per month for non-members. Please send copy (and check **made payable to MGOC** if a non-member) to MGOC, 7230 Silver Lode Lane, San Jose, CA 95120. Members may also email ads to the editor at [mgowners@gmail.com](mailto:mgowners@gmail.com).

## Cars for Sale:

**1957 Magnette** complete car with many extras. Garaged for 18 years and recently restored, all it requires is reassembly. The engine is excellent. Spares include a good set of carburetors, windshield wiper motor, red pre-cut (in England) upholstery, a full set of MG hubcaps, and many other things. \$6,000. Contact Member Judith at (510) 232-3859 or [wulfwoman2003@yahoo.com](mailto:wulfwoman2003@yahoo.com).

**1947 MGTC** British racing green, right hand drive in excellent condition. \$35,000. Contact Member Larry at (415) 999-2362.

**1958 MGA 1500.** Original owners offers classic rebuild opportunity to MGA enthusiasts. Package includes several thousand dollars of new parts and all the originals are available. About 60% of the car is professionally refurbished. \$10,000 OBO. Contact Ron at (408) 242-4969 or [Ronhay@gmail.com](mailto:Ronhay@gmail.com).



**1979 MGB** with overdrive. Brooklands Green with gold LE type lower body stripe. In original unrestored condition. Just 34k miles! Has won more than two dozen 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place awards at West Coast car shows. Always garaged and never driven in winter. Drives as good as it looks. \$8,500. I also have a 1980 Triumph TR8 in similar condition. Platinum Silver. 86k miles. \$12,500. If purchased together I will sell both cars for \$20,000 and include an open four wheel car hauling trailer. Contact Member Frank Oglesby at (775) 322-5179 or [flogles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:flogles@sbcglobal.net).



**1975 MGB**, 50th Anniversary Edition, 44,000 miles. White with Autumn Leaf interior, wire wheels, hardtop, original soft top (needs replacement), both tonneaus (as new), and tools. Running when parked in 1996. Interior has some sun damage. \$2,800 OBO. For basic info, contact Sam at [SWG3@comcast.net](mailto:SWG3@comcast.net). To arrange to see the car, contact Stephanie at [BS2464@netzero.com](mailto:BS2464@netzero.com).



**1977 MGB** with 54,000 original miles, overdrive transmission, original "Sandglow" paint and autumn leaf interior. Well maintained by third owner. Price \$5,900. Contact Member Ellis at [Bovet177@gmail.com](mailto:Bovet177@gmail.com).



### Parts for Sale:

**Electric Hoist** suitable for attaching to a sturdy rafter in a garage and lifting an engine out of a car. \$150. Contact Member Viggo Riddersholm at (650) 341-9064.

**MGB Transmission** set up for and used in MGA conversion to 5 Bearing MGB Block. Tranny rebuilt by Butch Gilbert less than 10K miles ago. Equipped with MGA tailshaft, includes custom built, balanced driveshaft to fit MGA. Runs smooth, quiet, shifts well. I updated to 5 speed so this is available. \$300.00. Contact Member Tim at (408) 529-4117 or [tmoriarty@fastmail.fm](mailto:tmoriarty@fastmail.fm).

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# Club Meeting Natter & Noggin

**April 9, 7 pm**

The Englander Sports Pub & Restaurant

101 Parrott Street, San Leandro

<http://www.englishpub.com/>

(510) 357-3571

The Englander is an enjoyable place where we have our own cozy room.

The food is good so bring your appetites.

Directions to The Englander:

From Northbound I-880, take the Washington Ave. exit within San Leandro and turn right on Washington St. Travel 2.2 miles until you see Parrott St. Turn right on Parrott Street. You will see The Englander on your right.

From Southbound I-880, take Davis St. exit and turn left on Davis. Travel 1.3 miles, then turn right on E. 14<sup>th</sup> St. Travel 0.3 miles, and then right on Parrott Street.



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